

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS AND LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. A method for making a closure having a body, a lid, and a hinge connecting said body and lid, said method comprising the steps of:

(A) providing a first mold part having (1) a first surface region defining a first side of said body, (2) a second surface region defining a first side of said hinge, and (3) a third surface region defining a first side of said lid;

(B) at a location spaced from said first mold part, providing a second mold part having (1) a first surface region defining a second side of said body, (2) a second surface region defining a second side of said hinge, and (3) a third surface region defining a second side of said lid;

(C) creating from a melt of thermoplastic material a billet having a predetermined shape;

(D) positioning said billet in a predetermined orientation with at least a portion of said billet disposed adjacent said first mold part second surface region;

(E) decreasing the space between said first and second mold parts to compress said billet so that said thermoplastic material flows between said mold parts; and

(F) after said thermoplastic material has solidified to form a closure, increasing the space between said mold parts, and then removing said closure.

2. The method in accordance with claim 1 in which said step (D) includes placing at least a portion of said billet against said first mold part second surface region.

3. The method in accordance with claim 2 in which said step (A) includes orienting said first mold part so that said first mold part first, second, and third surface regions face generally away from the direction of the earth's gravitational force; and

said step (D) includes positioning said billet directly on said first mold part so that at least a portion of said billet is supported by said first mold part second surface region.

4. The method in accordance with claim 1 in which step (C) includes creating said billet to have a generally egg shape with a large end and a small end.

5. The method in accordance with claim 4 in which step (D) includes positioning said billet with said small end adjacent and sagging toward said first mold part third surface region, and with said large end adjacent and sagging toward said first mold part first surface region.

6. The method in accordance with claim 1 in which step (C) includes extruding said melt through a generally oval shape exit orifice.

7. A method for making an article of unitary construction having a first portion, a second portion smaller than said first portion, and a third portion that is larger than said second portion, said method comprising the steps of:

(A) providing a first mold part having (1) a first surface region defining a first side of said first portion, (2) a second surface region defining a first side of said

second portion, and (3) a third surface region defining a first side of said third portion;

(B) at a location spaced from said first mold part, providing a second mold part having (1) a first surface region defining a second side of said first portion, (2) a second surface region defining a second side of said second portion, and (3) a third surface region defining a second side of said third portion;

(C) creating from a melt of thermoplastic material a billet having a predetermined shape;

(D) positioning said billet in a predetermined orientation with at least a portion of said billet disposed adjacent said first mold part second surface region;

(E) decreasing the space between said first and second mold parts to compress said billet so that said thermoplastic material flows between said mold parts; and

(F) after said thermoplastic material has solidified to form an article, increasing the space between said mold parts, and then removing said article.

8. The method in accordance with claim 7 in which said step (D) includes placing at least a portion of said billet against said first mold part second surface region.

9. The method in accordance with claim 8 in which said step (A) includes orienting said first mold part so that said first mold part first, second, and third surface regions face generally away from the direction of the earth's gravitational force; and

said step (D) includes positioning said billet directly on said first mold part so that at least a portion of said billet is supported by said first mold part second surface region.

10. The method in accordance with claim 7 in which step (C) includes creating said billet to have a generally egg shape with a large end and a small end.

11. The method in accordance with claim 10 in which step (D) includes positioning said billet with said small end adjacent and sagging toward said first mold part third surface region, and with said large end adjacent and sagging toward said first mold part first surface region.

12. The method in accordance with claim 7 in which step (C) includes extruding said melt through a generally oval shape exit orifice.

13-21. (Canceled)